



November 7, 2017

Office of the Attorney General
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
oag@oag.state.md.us

RE: Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write to inform you that the computers of Schachter Harris LLP were subject to an attack by unknown criminals that could potentially involve Maryland residents who filed or were involved in certain lawsuits alleging asbestos-related injuries. While we remain uncertain of the extent of the breach, as a precautionary matter, we are notifying you of this incident. We have reported the crime to and have been cooperating with the FBI in its ongoing investigation.

Schachter Harris, LLP is a Texas law firm that has served as science expert counsel for a defendant in personal injury cases alleging asbestos-related injuries. The firm does not maintain an office in your state, and all cases for which we were involved for this client were defended by local counsel in the jurisdiction where they were filed. In connection with our limited role, we received documents related to the expert issues in the cases that had been brought against our client, including pleadings, interrogatory answers, depositions, briefs, exhibits, and other materials. These documents can, depending on the case, contain information about the plaintiff or other persons involved in the case such as name, address, driver's license number, social security number, military and employment records, medical records, and medical information. Copies of documents we received about these cases were stored on our computers. Some of the cases from which we have documents were cases filed in Maryland or were cases involving Maryland residents. We have notified the client we represented in these cases.

The attackers used encryption ransomware to make some information on our computers inaccessible to us, including information we maintained in the capacity identified above. When we did not pay the ransom, the criminals claimed to possess the data from our computers. Based on our investigation, we believe that the attackers were able to acquire some files stored by our firm, relating to at least one of our clients. Based on information currently available to us, we believe that the security incident took place between August 29, 2017 and September 25, 2017.

Because of the encryption by the ransomware attack, we cannot compile a definitive list of persons whose information may have been in the files that are now encrypted. Furthermore, we do not maintain a database that tracks the addresses of the plaintiffs in the cases from which we have documents. Yet, we have endeavored to identify persons whose information may possibly have been in the encrypted files and have sent notice to a law firm that represented each person so identified.

Finally, we respectfully note that by sending this precautionary notice, the firm is not stating that personally identifying information (as defined by statute and not subject to an exclusion) has been accessed or obtained in any specific case, that notice from the firm to you or to any residents of your state is required, or that the firm is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the state to which this notice applies.

If you have any questions, please contact us at the number listed above.

Respectfully,

Schachter Harris, LLP

By:


Cary Schachter

By Certified Mail